



CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brown called the **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council of the City of La Cañada Flintridge to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers present: Stephen A. Del Guercio, Laura Olhasso, Anthony J. Portantino, Mayor Pro Tem David A. Spence, and Mayor Gregory C. Brown

Staff members present: City Manager Alexander, City Attorney Steres, Director of Public Works Castellanos, Director of Community Development Stanley, City Engineer Kwan, Senior Planner Buss, Senior Management Analyst Meyer, and City Clerk Sessman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Aaron Bromberg.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Nalini Lasiewicz, a resident of La Cañada Flintridge, spoke on the water conservation situation and the number of water districts that serve the City of La Cañada Flintridge. She suggested and requested City Council support for the formation of an ad-hoc committee that would explore electric and water conservation issues through new programs, technologies and regulations, educating the community and promoting environmental programs.

Captain Peters introduced Sergeant Mark Slater, the new Traffic Sergeant at the Crescenta Valley Station and announced that the Sheriff's Department's annual Tip-a-Cop will take place Tuesday, April 18, 2006 promoting Special Olympics.

Don Shields, a resident of La Cañada Flintridge, commented on the City website and its search ability.

PRESENTATIONS

A Proclamation proclaiming April 23-29, 2006 as "SafetyBeltSafe USA" week was presented to Phaedra Walton, resident of La Cañada Flintridge and representative of SafetyBeltSafe USA.

The Public Safety Update for the Fire Department was presented by Chief Singer.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Don Voss.

The staff updates on City Projects were presented by Director Castellanos and Director Stanley. Updates on the following projects were given: Flume Project, Foothill Wall Project, Angeles Crest Roadway, Michigan Hill Project, Chevy Chase Sidewalk and Bulbout Project, La Canada Blvd Sidewalk, LC Blvd loading zone, Old Town Medium Project, Sewer Areas 3A & 3B, La Canada Properties and R-1 Revisions.

REORDERING OF AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA - NONE

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilmember Portantino recused himself from agenda item #5, due to a potential conflict of interest, as his home is located within 500 feet of the project area. Councilmember Portantino stepped off the City Council dais and left the council chambers.

Councilmember Olhasso requested that staff provide advance notice when change orders occur on projects.

Motion by Councilmember Olhasso, seconded by Councilmember Del Guercio, to approve Consent Calendar items with Councilmember Portantino's recusal from item #5 noted:

1. Approval of Minutes of the City Council:
 - (a) March 6, 2006 Regular Meeting
 - (b) April 3, 2006 Special
2. Approval of Warrant Resolution No. 06-07 dated April 17, 2006, for \$306,749.43.
3. Receive and file Commission Meeting Agendas:
 - (a) Design Commission Action Agenda from the March 30, 2006 and April 6, 2006 Meetings.
 - (b) Planning Commission Action Agenda from the April 11, 2006 Meeting.
 - (c) Parks and Recreation Commission Agenda from the April 12, 2006 Meeting.
4. Receive and file Monthly Report of Investments for the period ending March 31, 2006.
5. (i) Approve the project and award a Cash Contract 05/06-6 to All American Asphalt in the amount of \$1,139,000 for the Improvement of Foothill Boulevard from Cypress Avenue to La Cañada Boulevard, Federal Project No. STPL-5417(008) and include \$113,000 for contingencies, materials testing and inspection for a total project cost of \$1,252,000 (ii) adjust the STPL funds from \$384,000 to \$420,000 to reflect the increase of \$36,000; and (iii) reallocate funds in the amount of \$656,000 from the following capital projects to Budget Account No. (BA#) 31-50-0411: (1) \$200,000 from Foothill Boulevard/Angeles Crest Highway Streetscape Improvements (BA# 31-50-0615); (2) \$270,000 from Angeles Crest Highway Median Islands (BA# 31-50-0610); (3) \$120,000 from Georgian Road Drainage Improvements (BA# 31-50-0617); and (4) \$66,000 from Memorial Park Crosswalk (BA# 31-50-0603).
6. Authorize the City Manager to execute the letter agreement with Moreland & Associates for Financial Audit Services for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2006

ORDINANCE

7. Introduction and first reading of an Ordinance revising R-1 Code

Community Development Director Stanley presented a brief staff report and provided a brief outline of the proposed Ordinance.

11.01.030 Definitions

The City Council expressed their support for the recommended change to the definition of Yard Equipment as presented by Director Stanley. There were no objections.

The City Council expressed their support for the recommended changes to 11.01.030 Definitions as presented by Director Stanley. There were no objections.

11.11 R-1 Single-Family Residential Zone

Second Floor Review

Director Stanley presented a brief description of proposed revisions and explained that he has gone through and corrected the numbering within the R-1 Standards. They are minor corrections and, per the City Attorney's direction, the City does not have to go through each numbering correction. In addition, he pointed out that he had included a definition of what is considered "second floor," which was originally contained in the building depth review. Per consensus of the City Council, it will be deleted.

In response to an inquiry by Councilmember Portantino, Director Stanley stated that there have been no problems with the definition of building depth or second story.

In response to an inquiry by Councilmember Portantino, Director Stanley stated that a "Directors Review" is not noticed, but it is appealable to the Planning Commission.

Building Depth Review

There was consensus of the City Council to eliminate Building Depth Review.

Residential Design Guidelines

Director Stanley explained that he has added a section that discussed the Residential Design Guidelines.

In response to concerns expressed by Councilmember Olhasso, Director Stanley stated that the Residential Design Guidelines will be added to the check list is currently being used by Planning staff when permits are reviewed.

Mayor Brown stated that it is critical that the Residential Design Guidelines get completed. He stated that without the guidelines, the City will have difficulty making the findings.

Recreational Vehicle Storage

Director Stanley presented a brief description of proposed revisions.

Councilmember Olhasso requested the word "in height" be added to item 4(b) so it reads as follows: "Recreational Vehicles less than 6 feet high. Recreational Vehicles less than 6 feet in height may be stored within an interior side yard setback."

In response to an inquiry by Councilmember Del Guercio, Director Stanley stated that a boat is considered a recreational vehicle.

City Attorney Steres expressed concern that verbiage under "Recreation Vehicle Storage regarding Side Yard Setback" was confusing. Director Stanley suggested that with City Council approval, a separate sentence that addresses the side yard setback issue could be included in that paragraph. There were no objections.

Mayor Brown stated that he didn't want to see recreational vehicles being moved onto the street. He expressed the need for a parallel ordinance that regulates/restricts the amount of time recreational vehicles can be parked on the street. There was consensus of the City Council.

*Mechanical Equipment in Side Yard Setbacks and
Regulations—Side and Rear Yards—Pools, Spas and Equipment*

Director Stanley explained that he had inadvertently left out a requirement recommended by the Planning Commission requiring some type of a sound-buffering structure around mechanical and pool equipment when located within the required setback. He stated that this requirement has been added, page 14 of Chapter 11.11.050 (B)(e) Mechanical Equipment in Side Yard Setbacks, and page 16 of Chapter 11.11.050 (B)(h) Regulations—Side and Rear Yards—Pools, Spas and Equipment; these are major changes that were not discussed during prior meetings. The City Council expressed their support for the recommended requirements. There were no objections.

Street-Fronting Fences and Walls

Following a brief discussion, there was City Council consensus to edit Chapter 11.11.050 (F) (g) Lighting, to read as follows: Lighting may be provided atop the fence or its pillars, to reach a maximum height of 7 feet, provided that the lighting fixtures are no closer than ~~50~~ 15 feet apart and on either side of the driveway. The intensity of the lights shall be measured to ensure that the light projected across property lines is not more than one foot-candle above ambient. Exceptions shall be allowed for low level lighting of less than ~~50-candelas~~ 100 watts. Brightness of the fixtures shall be indicated on the drawings and subject to evaluation in the context of the project.

*Mayor Brown **OPENED** the public comment period.*

Peter Kahn, a resident of La Cañada Flintridge, expressed concern with the amount of time and potential costs for the second story review to both the City and the home owner. He requested that the City Council consider a schedule that specifies the maximum allowable time that it would take for second story review to get before the Planning Commission. In addition, he expressed concern with the ambiguousness of the wording "character of surrounding neighborhood" used throughout Chapter 11.45.

Mayor Brown explained that the Residential Design Guidelines that are going before the Planning Commission will include a variety of examples for a variety of situations which will provide direction for second story designs. There are no total prohibitions.

Councilmember Del Guercio stated that verbiage "character of the surrounding neighborhood" has been used with floor area, building depth review and hillside review.

Councilmember Olhasso suggested the Residential Design Guidelines include some type of language that specifies that the Guidelines are not meant to discourage second story homes.

In response to an inquiry by Councilmember Olhasso, Director Stanley stated that the Project Streamlining Act requires staff to review projects deemed complete within a specified amount of time.

Don Shields, a resident of La Cañada Flintridge, expressed concern with the code section regarding "Front Yard Shrubbery," explaining the dangers of allowing shrubbery to grow through decorative fences and obstruct visibility. In addition, he expressed concern with recommended changes to the "Administrative Height Modification" regarding removal of the neighbor consent and inclusion of neighbor notification. He expressed his support for allowing the surrounding neighbors to have a say in the approval process and expressed his displeasure that the determination is given to the Director.

In response to concerns expressed by Mr. Shields, Councilmember Del Guercio explained that the Public Works department reviews front yard shrubbery that obstructs line-of-site. He further explained that the issue of regulating shrubbery heights is an issue that has been discussed on several occasion and no consensus was reached. He stated it does concern him when decorative fences are closed in using shrubbery, but stated that he would have a difficult time regulating shrubbery heights; they are a characteristic you see throughout La Cañada Flintridge.

There was no one else from the public wishing to speak, therefore, Mayor Brown **CLOSED** the public comment period.

Mayor Pro Tem Spence suggested a special meeting of the Planning Commission be held to begin the process of reviewing the Design Guidelines.

Following a brief discussion, City Manager Alexander suggested that the Ordinance No. 356 be put into effect November 1, 2006, and that any applications deemed complete by October 1, 2006 follow the current regulations. There were no objections.

Councilmember Del Guercio requested staff bring back ordinance in June 2007 for review by the City Council. There were no objections.

A motion was made by Councilmember Portantino, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Spence, to direct the City Attorney to read by title only and introduce Ordinance No. 356 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE APPROVING ZONE CHANGE 04-02 AMENDING CHAPTERS 11.01 "GENERAL RULES," 11.11 "R-1 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL ZONE AND 11.45 "MODIFICATIONS AND SPECIAL REVIEWS" AND DELETING CHAPTER 11.31 "YARD AREAS GENERALLY TO THE ZONING CODE, with requested changes." The motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Del Guercio, Olhasso, Portantino, Spence and Brown; NOES: None; ABSENT: None; ABSTAIN: None.

**CALL TO ORDER SPECIAL MEETING of the LOCAL FINANCING AUTHORITY
(Concurrent with the City Council Meeting)**

For the purpose of discussion, the following meetings were held concurrently: Mayor/Chair Brown called to order the Special Meeting of the Local Financing Authority to be held concurrently with the City Council. All members were present.

OTHER BUSINESS

8. Potential Refunding of the City's 2004A Sewer Revenue Bonds – Sewer Assessment District No. 04-1 (Areas 3A and 3B)

City Manager Alexander presented a staff report and introduced Daryl Street from Fieldman, Rolapp and Assoc., who provided a brief PowerPoint presentation.

Mayor Brown **OPENED** the public comment session. There was no one wishing to speak, therefore, Mayor Brown **CLOSED** the Public Comment session.

Councilmember Del Guercio requested clarification on the disbursement of debt service savings to Sewer Assessment District No. 04-1 property owners and expressed concern with reimbursing when the final costs of the project are not yet known.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Spence, seconded by Councilmember Olhasso, to authorize staff to proceed with the partial call of 2004A Sewer Revenue Bonds effective September 2, 2006 using proceeds from the SRF Loan Program pursuant to Scenario 1. The motion carried unanimously.

At this point, Mayor/Chair Portantino adjourned the Special Meeting of the Redevelopment Agency, Local Finance Authority and Public Improvement Corporation.

9. Receive applications for the expiring Terms on City Commissions and Committees and schedule interviews.

Mayor Brown **OPENED** the public comment session. There was no one wishing to speak, therefore, Mayor Brown **CLOSED** the Public Comment session.

There was consensus of the City Council to (1) Receive applications for appointment to fill the anticipated vacancies on City Commissions and Committees; (2) Extend the deadline for acceptance of applications to fill vacancies on the Public Safety Commission to May 1, 2006; (3) Dispense with the first-round ballot vote for selection of Youth Council applicants; and (4) Direct the City Clerk to schedule May 3, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. and May 15, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. as the time and place to conduct applicant interviews.

10. Mayor's City Council Assignments

Mayor Brown distributed a revised list of the outside agency assignments for the members of the City Council and requested that staff notify the respective agencies to which assigned responsibility had changed.

CONCLUDING BUSINESS

Councilmembers' report on meetings attended at the expense of the local agency – None

Councilmembers' reports regarding regional and local representation – None

Councilmember Del Guercio provided a brief overview of his recent trip to China with the La Cañada High School Band where he represented the interests of the City.

Councilmembers' request for future agenda items – None

Councilmembers' comments – None

City Manager and/or staff comments – None

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Kathleen R. Sessman
City Clerk

Minutes Approved by the City Council on September 18, 2006.